

City of Socorro

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What is the ICIP?

1. Landfill - New Construction
2. Water Treatment Facilities Upgrade (Arsenic Removal)
3. Convention Center/Recreation Facility
4. Lopezville Road - Reconstruction & Drainage
5. Cuba Road Drainage (Texas/Vermont/B street) - Reconstruction

So reads the list of the Socorro City Council's top five priorities for this fiscal year and for the 2010-2014 Infrastructure Capital Improvements Plan (ICIP). Each year the City Council reviews the current ICIP, adds new items that may have come up during the year (such as the water treatment facilities upgrade this year, due to Federal mandate), notes progress on current projects and sets, or resets, priorities for the next 5 years. This allows the Council to begin seeking funding sources for the various projects.

During this annual review, Councilors look closely at projects that have been suggested or requested throughout the year during the public forum scheduled at each regular Council meeting, new State or Federal mandates, and the existing inventory of land and buildings owned by the city that must be maintained. Each project is placed in a category to be prioritized:

1. Health and Safety
2. Utility Infrastructure
3. Street Infrastructure
4. Quality of Life
5. Operations

The planning process requires the Council to set longterm Capital Improvement Goals such as completing the renovation of basic utility service infrastructure, completing the paving and repaving of all municipal streets within the next 5 years, providing improved recreation facilities, and upgrading the City's sanitation and solid waste system.

The complete text of Resolution No. 08-08-18b (the most recent ICIP for 2010-2014) is available at City Hall. Attending Council meetings and taking part in the public forum is the first step toward participating in this annual review.

Is Your Pet Missing? Have You Checked the Shelter?

"We should be the first people you call," says shelter manager Juanita De La O Gordon. She wants people to know that the shelter is there for taking in wayward pets and reuniting them with their owners.

De La O Gordon retired from the District Attorney's Office where she worked as law enforcement. Now as the city animal control officer, she deals with situations involving animals at large and animal cruelty. "This is extremely different from anything else I've done," she says. She started work at the shelter in mid-June—and there is plenty of work to be done.

In an average month, 100 animals will come into the shelter. If a dog does not have tags or collar, it stays 4 days. With a collar, dogs stay 6. The hope is to reunify them with their owners. Unfortunately, that rarely happens because people don't think to contact the shelter when their pet is missing.

What happens to these dogs? "People think the shelter is scary because we put so many animals down. We're trying to change that" says De La O Gordon. She is currently working toward a membership in Rescue Waggin', a nonprofit organization run by PetsSmart Charities. Through them, up to 20 dogs per month will be relocated to areas where there are more people looking to adopt than there are available animals. As an example, she cites Boulder, Colorado: the spay and neuter laws have been so successful that there is a shortage of dogs, so dogs from other shelters are adopted out very quickly.

Unwanted puppies from the Shelter go to PACA: Peoples Anti-Cruelty Association, New Mexico's oldest no-kill animal rescue group. They hold adopt-a-thons in stores in Albuquerque. Since mid-July 80 puppies have been adopted out through PACA.

Cats are a different story.

"Cats are our biggest problem. Everybody has too many," she says. She is considering a "catch and release" program in which feral cats are trapped, spayed or neutered and then returned to where they were. This should help decrease the population as well as curbing disease while allowing the cats to live and function as rodent control.

So many animals per month is a big job, and De La O Gordon doesn't do it alone. Frank Marquez is the city's animal control officer. Nicole Winder and Denise Selina are kennel and office assistants, respectively. There also is a cadre of 30 volunteers, 17 of which are very active. They

do many tasks, from walking dogs and playing with the cats, to cleaning kennels and bathing animals, to transporting puppies to PACA and writing thank you notes to donors.

De La O Gordon's goal is to bring the shelter up to a standard of presentability and functionality: a professional work place. She wants also to educate people to spay and neuter their animals. And, of course, she wants to reunite pets with their owners.

Phone 838-3103; shelter cell 505-340-1574

Hours:

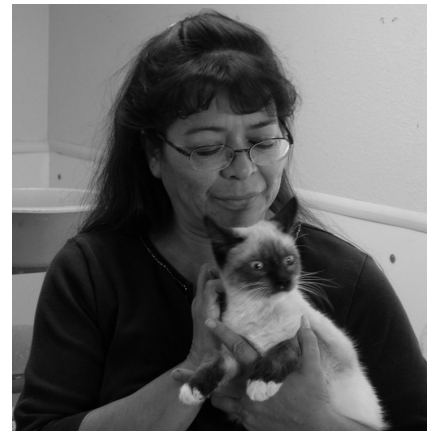
M 8:30-3:00

T 8:30-5:30

W closed

Th 8:30-5:30

F 8:30-3:00



De La O Gordon with a potential adoptee.

Employee anniversaries

James Peralta

10 years

City Council

Mary Ann Chavez-Lopez

Gordy Hicks

Toby Jaramillo

Donald Monette

Michael Olguin, Jr.

Ernest Pargas, Jr.

Peter D. Romero

Chuck Zimmerly

Ravi Bhasker, Mayor

Pat Salome, City Clerk